[Translation]

Panaki Power House at Kanpur

3772. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the smoke and ash emitting from the chimneys of Panaki Power House at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has been posing a threat to the lives of the people living in ten kilometer radius of this power house; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No conclusive report of adverse impact on health of the population living near the Panaki Power House at Kanpur, is available. However, the Government are aware of the pollution problems created by the Power House. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued the following directions to the Power House for taking necessary steps to check the pollution problems:—

(i) to ensure proper commissioning and functioning of electrostatic precipitators in order to check emissions of suspended particulate matter.

(ii) to submit a time bound action plan for switching over to the use of beneficiated/blended coal with lower ash content.

(iii) to make use of fly ash.

(iv) to install and ensure proper functioning of opacity meters.

The pollution control programme is being monitored by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board.

[English]

Impact of Global Merger

3773. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied impact of the global merger and acquisition fever on the Indian pharmaceutical industry in the absence of product patents;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the estimated number of products being patented by 2000; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the low-cost manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and research and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No such study has been conducted by the Government so far.

(b) Number of Products patented by the year 2000 A.D. would depend on outcome of R/D efforts.

(c) Various incentives have been provided to give impetus to research and development which has assumed greater importance in view of world trade scenario. Challenges faced, therefore, include sustaining indigenous industry through vigorous R&D efforts and making it internationally cost effective in bulk production.

Financial support for R&D activities under schemes of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, collaborative research taken up by various laboratories of the CSIR and setting up of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research to produce R&D oriented scientists are some of the steps which have been taken to encourage R&D.

Implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System

3774. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have already announced reduction in the rates of rice and wheat to be supplied in their respective States; and

(b) if so, the manner in which now the Targeted Public Distribution System scheme will be implemented in such States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No State Government has so far fixed the end consumer price of rice and wheat for the Targeted PDS, which will be done by them after issue of formal notification fixing the Central Issue Prices by the Government of India.

(b) Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a statement on the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.1997 and detailed guidelines indicating the manner in which the Targeted PDS will be implemented, issued in this regard, have also been laid on the table of the House. As per the guidelines, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to identify the beneficiaries living Below Poverty Line, based on the estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission for the Year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala.